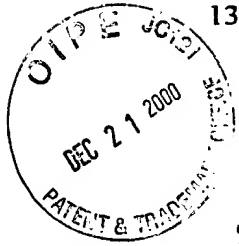


FAX MESSAGE

from

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December 4, 2000

TO: Mr. Charles Brantley
MICRON Technology
Boise, Idaho

RE: Our phone conversations this morning

Accompanying this is my English translation of Japanese Patent Release JP 56-73579 with the corrected fourth page, as you requested.

You will have noted that this patent copy was another "black blob" copy--many characters in the text so poorly copied that they have become black blobs. Over the years, I have had good cooperation from your Patent Division in getting the clearest possible copy to work with, but this was apparently one time when good copy simply was not available.

As you may know, the number of different characters used in such technical writing is upwards of 4,000 to 5,000. Small internal differences between characters totally change their meaning. So, in dealing with black-blob or too faint copy, a translator can only get so far by examining the context of the character or its general external shape.

I do not know what action the U.S. Patent Office can take; but, after translating in the past decade some two hundred Japanese patents, of which perhaps 10-15% were poor copy like this, I feel the Japanese Patent Office must, under international treaties and agreements, have a responsibility to do a better job of providing clear copy.

Hugh Burleson

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